



ASC State Commission Performance Measures Working Group Overview DRAFT - 3.31.16

Background

In 2014, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) began requiring state service commissions to identify and report on at least one aligned capacity building measure to access Commission Support Grant funding. Currently, state service commissions are required to select their performance measure from capacity building measures developed for national service programs. In discussions regarding performance measures, state service commissions have noted that the program capacity building measures do not necessarily accurately reflect the work of state service commissions, and it has been difficult to identify tools for the purpose of reporting.

ASC Working Group

As a result of these challenges, America's Service Commissions (ASC) has created a working group to focus on best practices and information sharing around state commission performance measures. In summer 2015, ASC began exploring the possibility of developing a performance measure framework, that would be approved by CNCS, and could be utilized by all state service commissions beginning in the fall of 2016. Goals of this working group include:

- Develop state service commission performance measures that reflect the work of state service commissions;
- Develop performance measures that are aggregable across the state service commission network; and,
- Identify tools that assist state service commissions in collecting data to meet reporting requirements and improve operations.

As part of its initial work, the working group identified six areas of work common to commissions that could serve as a starting point for developing performance measures:

- Developing a culture of service within the state (state service plan);
- AmeriCorps grant outreach and selection;
- Ensuring AmeriCorps program quality (monitoring and training/technical assistance);
- Developing commission collaboration strategies and sustainability;
- Increasing volunteer engagement; and,
- Other commission program areas, such as disaster, mentoring, nonprofit capacity building, etc.

DRAFT Performance Measures

Given their importance to the work of commissions, the working group has focused its efforts on identifying potential measures in two key areas: AmeriCorps grant outreach and selection as well as ensuring AmeriCorps program quality (monitoring and training/technical assistance). Current thinking in these areas include:

AmeriCorps grant outreach and selection (further work needs to be done in this area based on feedback received at ASC Executive Director Convening)

- # of organizations participating in outreach sessions/webinars
- # of applications received (new, recompetes, continuation)
- Value of match secured to support AmeriCorps programs

Ensuring program quality

- # of AmeriCorps programs that receive training
- # of programs demonstrating that training provided by the commission has strengthened their capacity to manage an AmeriCorps grant as shown through pre-post assessment on compliance tracking tool
- Commission will complete an assessment, with information from the commission compliance tracking tool (or for new grantees readiness assessment) before the beginning of a new program year and at the completion of a program year. This measure will be considered met by # of programs with no compliance issues, or number of programs with a decrease in compliance findings (or score above 80 in all areas) depending on tools.

These areas have been selected for aligned measures given that they represent activities that all commissions engage in and based on the belief that commission work in these areas demonstrate the added value of the state commission infrastructure. In addition, ASC envisions that it will ask state commissions to report to ASC on several other output measures across the identified areas to assist in telling a more complete story of commission activity across the country.

Framework Development Timeline

October 2015	Working group convenes and sets context for framework development
November 2015-February 2016	Draft performance measures developed by working group
March 2016	Draft performance measures shared with commission executive directors at ASC Executive Director Convening
April-June 2016	Draft performance measures shared with commission staff at regional training events
June 2016	Edits incorporated by working group
July-August 2016	Proposed measures shared with CNCS for feedback/approval; supporting tools identified for use by commissions
September 2016	Session regarding commission performance measures at AmeriCorps Symposium; performance measures rolled out with Commission Support Grant guidance